

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page ⁸~~6~~, lines ¹⁴⁻²¹~~21-28~~ with the following amended paragraph:

The test case file 310 may be configured as a text file, preferably as an ASCII text format. The test case file 310 may be created with simple text editors or word processing programs, provided extraneous formatting is removed from all lines of the test case file 310. Moreover, the test case file 310 may be further configured to format test data input in a tab delimited file format with each line of the test data case file 310 representing a step of the testing of the AUT 330. A test data file 312 may accompany the test case file 310 in instances where there are advantages in isolating logical names of graphical user elements of the AUT. The test data file 312 may be also configured in a tab delimited ASCII file format.

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 1-4 with the following amended paragraph:

The test protocol tier 610 may be considered the area with which a test designer would primarily interface. Typically, the files that the test designer would utilize are in ASCII format and are external to the actual test code. These files include at least a test case file ~~340~~ 616, a test data file ~~342~~ 620, a GUI map file ~~420~~ 648, and a test suite file ~~740~~ 614, as shown in Fig. 6.

(Continued on next page.)

1 Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 14 and ending on page
2 14, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

3 The error field ~~745~~ 716 of the test case file 310 may represent an
4 optional field that sets an error recovery level for this test step. If no value
5 is specified in the test step, a default value is assumed. There may be five
6 error recovery values, listed from least severe to most: ERR_IGNORE,
7 ERR_STEP, ERR_STEP_N, ERR_FAIL, and ERR_STOP. The
8 ERR_IGNORE value may represent that the current step may be skipped
9 without resetting the test automation harness 300 and does not log an error
10 message and continues to the next step in the file. The ERR_STEP value
11 may represent a value similar to ERR_IGNORE except that the error
12 message is recorded in a log file. The ERR_STEP_N value may represent
13 the number of test case steps to jump before reaching the next step to be
14 executed in the current test case file, where N may be a value between 1 to
15 999. If this error option is set, closing all instances of the AUT resets the
16 test automation harness 300. Subsequently, the next test case file in a test
suite is then executed. The ERR_STOP value may represent that the step
log an error message and fail the entire test suite and suspend all further
testing.

17 Please replace the paragraph on page 14, lines 5-12 with the following amended
18 paragraph:

19 The test data file 312 may be configured to contain literal values for
20 logical names to be used by the steps of the test case files ~~312~~ 310. The
21 test data file 312 may be in an ASCII, a tab delimited file format. The test
22 data file 312 may also be configured such that each line, or record, of
23 values is to be used once and only once. Further, data for each test step is
24 given on line with a column reference for each logical name. In the event
25 that a file in the test case file 310 attempts to read data past the last record
in the test data file 312, the step executes using the last line of data used by
the previous step. In response, an error message is logged indicated that
this event had occurred.

1 Please replace the paragraph on page ¹⁵~~14~~, lines ¹¹⁻¹³~~13-15~~ with the following
2 amended paragraph:

3 The test suite file 740 may be configured to contain two blocks of
4 information: (1) a collection of required and optional test environment
5 variables; and (2) a list of the test case files ~~to~~ to be run during a test
6 session.

7 Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 10-12 with the following
8 amended paragraph:

9 The other block of test environment variables includes variables that
10 may be used to avoid repetition of certain strings, which should be
11 applicable only to the files in the test case files ~~740~~ 310.

12 (End of amendments to the specification.)
13
14 (Continued on next page.)
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25